

# Little Rock: A Long Time Ago and Today

Mrs. Hestir's Class, 2009-2010





## The authors

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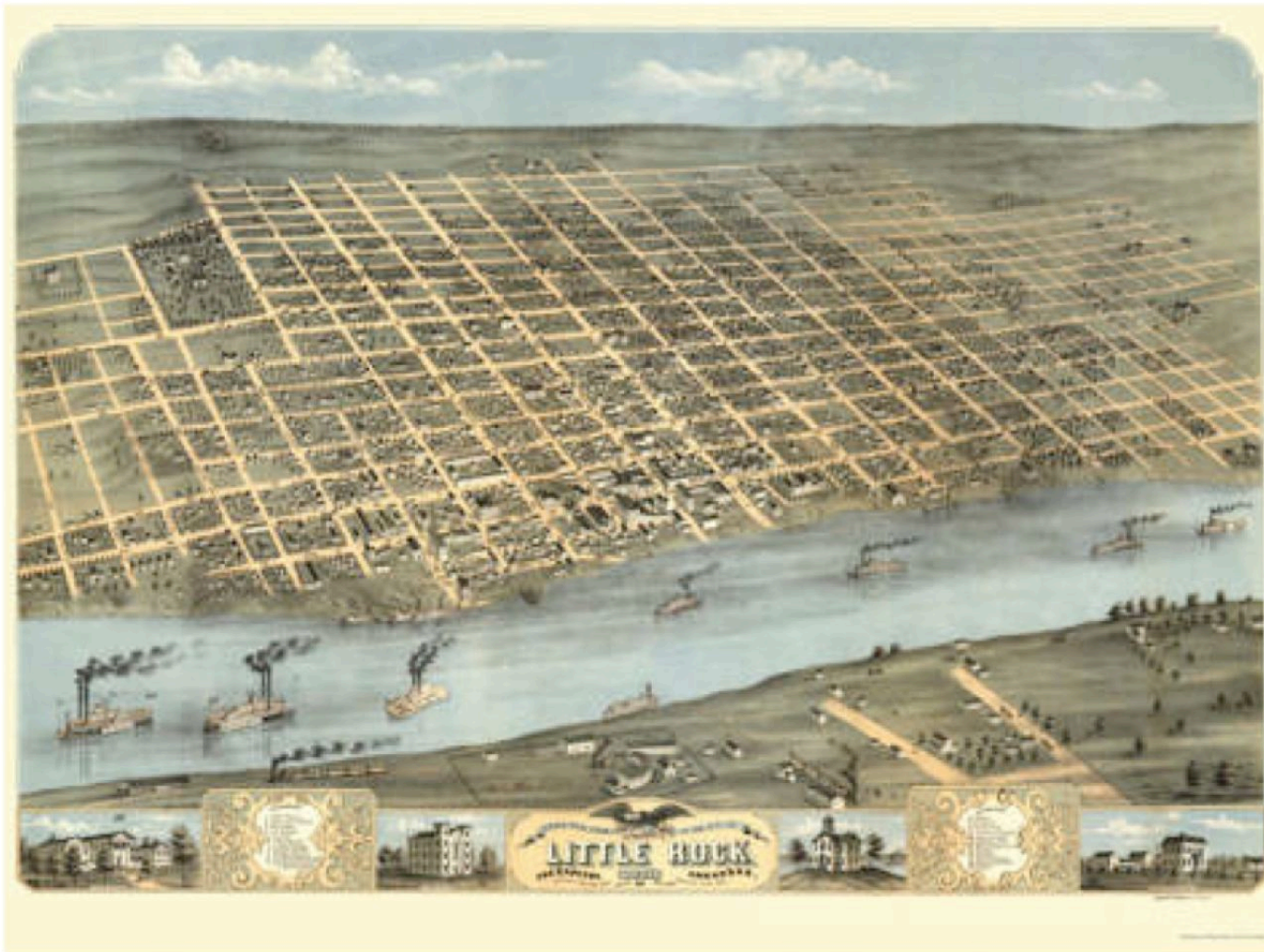
# Little Rock: A Long Time Ago and Today

This book is about our city. We learned about Little Rock when Judge Mifflin Wistar Gibbs lived here from 1871 to 1915. There are some things about our city that are the same, but there are many differences. Little Rock was little back then.

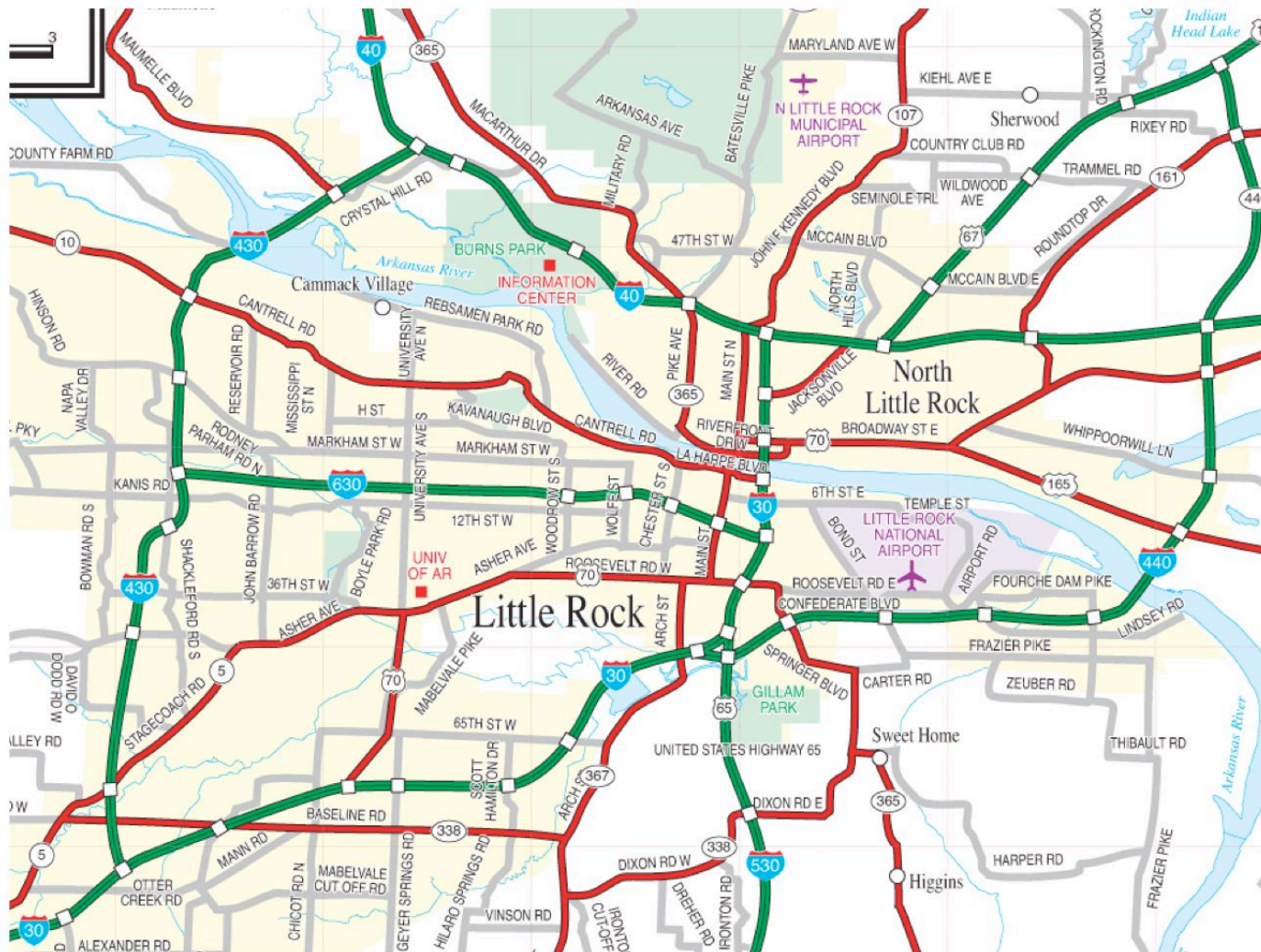
Life was also different one hundred years ago. It was harder to live without air conditioners and heaters, refrigerators, cell phones, and computers.

Most of us would rather live in Little Rock today, because we have t.v. and video games. We also get to play sports like soccer, football, baseball, and basketball, instead of having to work.

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During the lifetime of Judge Mifflin W. Gibbs, people lived around downtown. Little Rock was not very big. Most people lived downtown so they could be close to stores and work.



Now more people live farther away from downtown in places like Sherwood and Jacksonville.  
Little Rock is a bigger city. People have cars to drive to work.





A long time ago, houses in Little Rock didn't have electricity. Without electricity there is no air conditioning. That's why they had lots of windows to open. The houses were made out of brick or wood with big porches.





Today some people live in old houses, some people live in apartments, and some people live in new houses. We have heaters, air conditioning, refrigerators, video games, and t.v.s in our houses.





When Judge Gibbs lived in Little Rock, there were stores downtown. People shopped for clothes and shoes. The roads downtown were made out of dirt and they were bumpy.





Now people shop at shopping malls and stores. Most people drive to stores like Wal-Mart, Toys R' Us, and Kroger. Some people even shop online. There are also stores downtown.

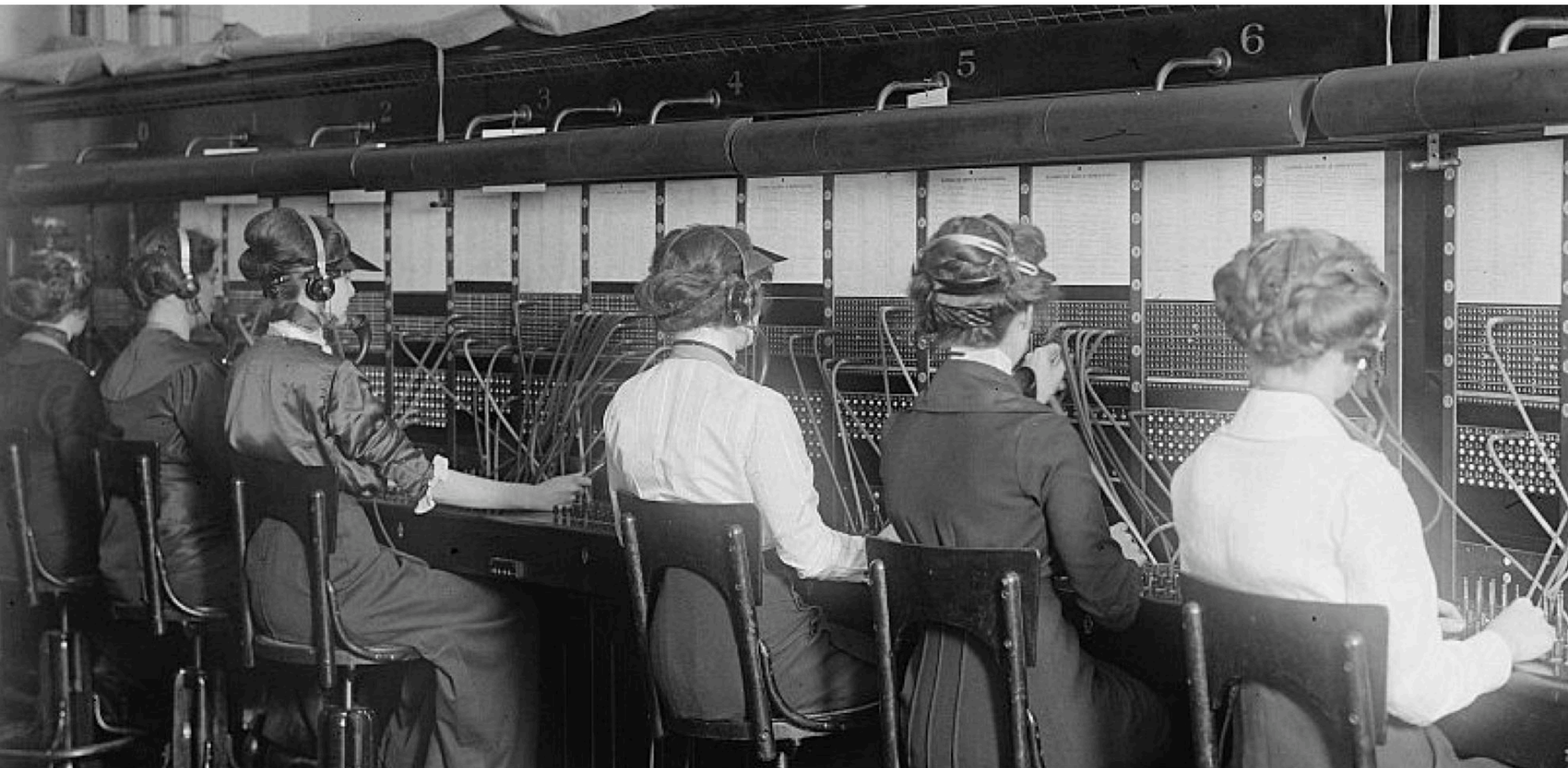


When Judge Gibbs lived in Little Rock, people would get around by horse and by walking.  
If they had to go a long way, they rode on trains.





Now people get in cars, buses, and even boats, to go where they want to go. They take airplanes to travel a very long way, like all the way to China!



A long time ago, some people wrote telegraphs to their friends and family. Operators used Morse Code to tap out messages. Some people wrote letters with pens dipped in ink. When telephones were first invented, operators had to make the phone call.





Today most people have cell phones. They use e-mail or talk to their friends and family on the telephone. Some people still write letters.

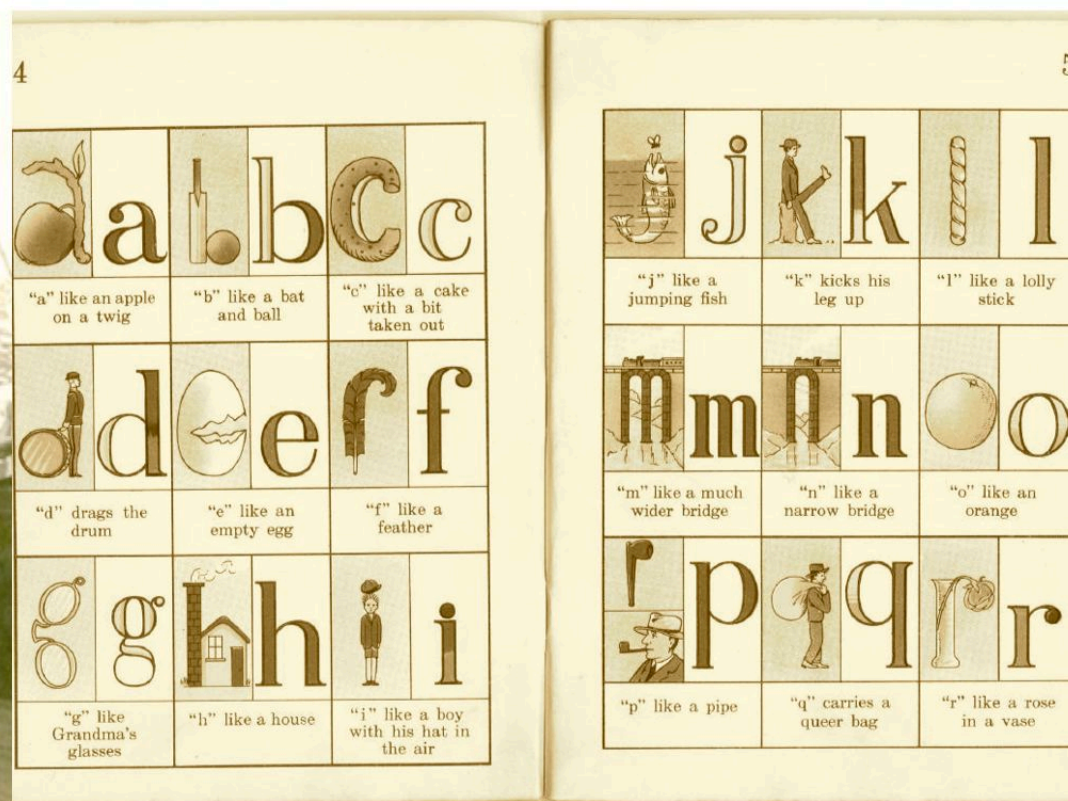


Then, people dressed nicely. Boys and girls did not have lots of clothes. Men wore top hats and ties and women wore dresses. People never wore jeans or shorts.





Today people wear jeans, t-shirts, and tennis shoes. They dress up when they are going somewhere special, like out to eat or to a party.



When Judge Gibbs lived in Little Rock, kids wrote on chalkboards in school. Schools were small and they did not have many books. There were no computers.





Today students work alone and in groups. They write on paper and in notebooks with pencils. Students also work on computers. In math they use calculators and number charts. Now schools have playgrounds with swings and slides.





A long time ago, people bought food at markets. Some ate fish and grew vegetables and fruit in their gardens. They used iceboxes to keep their food cold. Candy only cost one cent at the store!





Today people still eat vegetables and fruit. Kids like to eat pizza and peanut butter sandwiches.  
Parents shop for food at Wal-Mart and the grocery store.



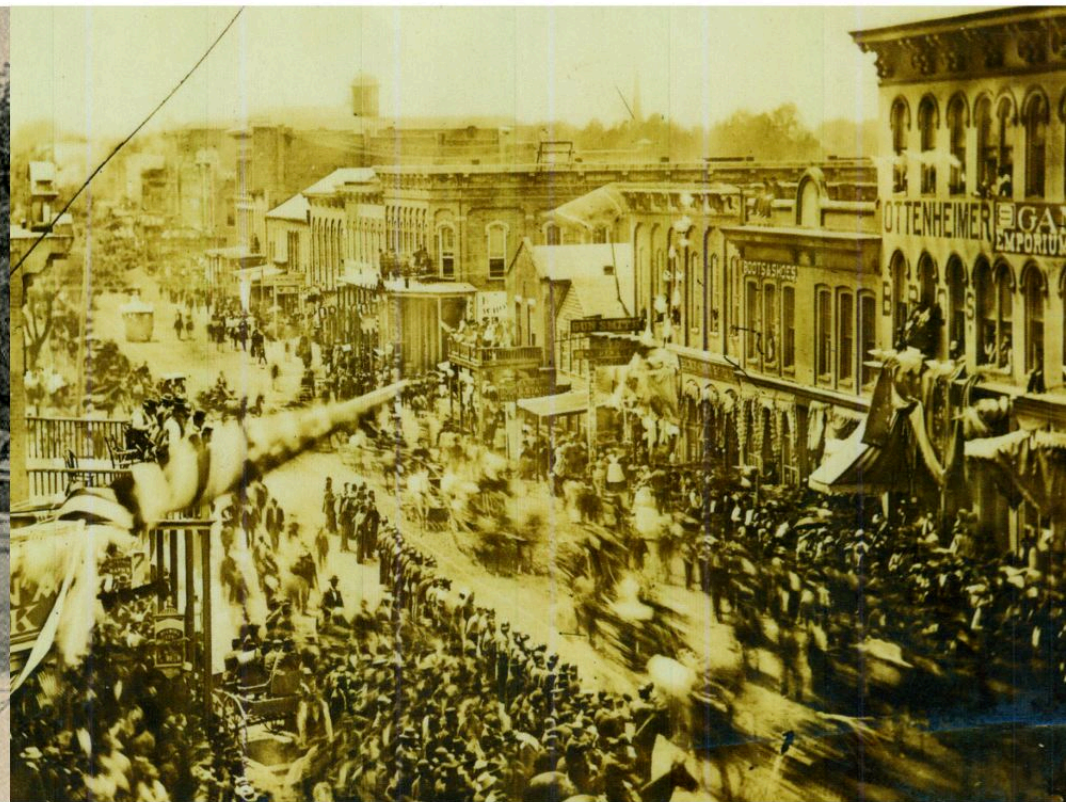
A long time ago, kids played with balls and dolls. Most toys were made out of wood. Sometimes they made up games.. Some kids did not have much time to play because they were working.





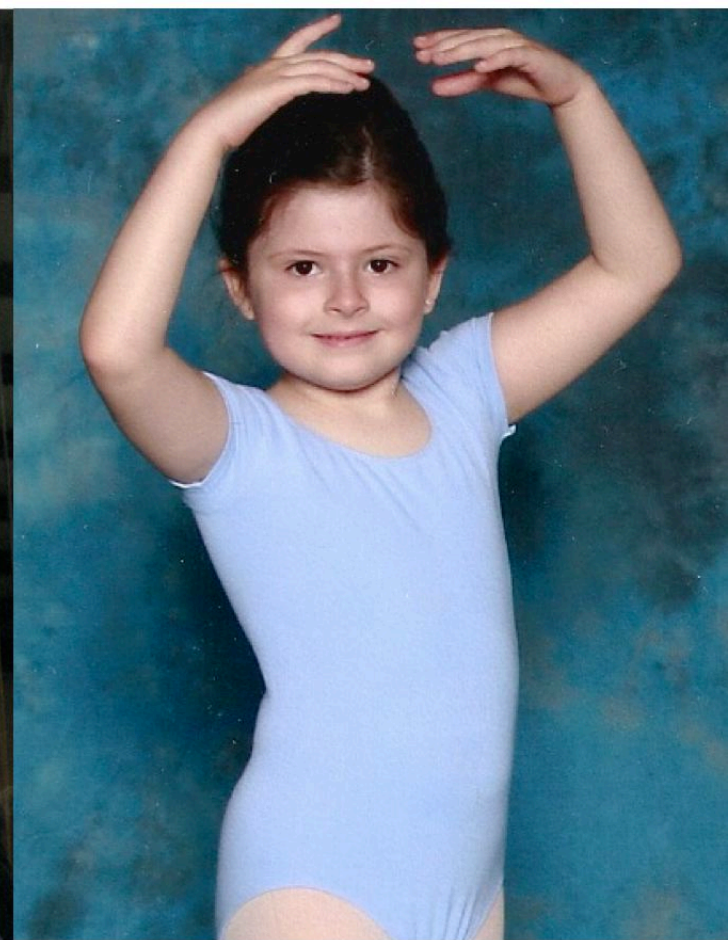
Now, kids play with Nintendo DS and Legos. Most toys today are plastic. Some kids help out with chores, like making their beds and cleaning up big messes, but kids today do not have jobs.





A long time ago, people in Little Rock watched parades or musical shows for entertainment. They went for walks, picnics, or carriage rides. They read books or played games at home.



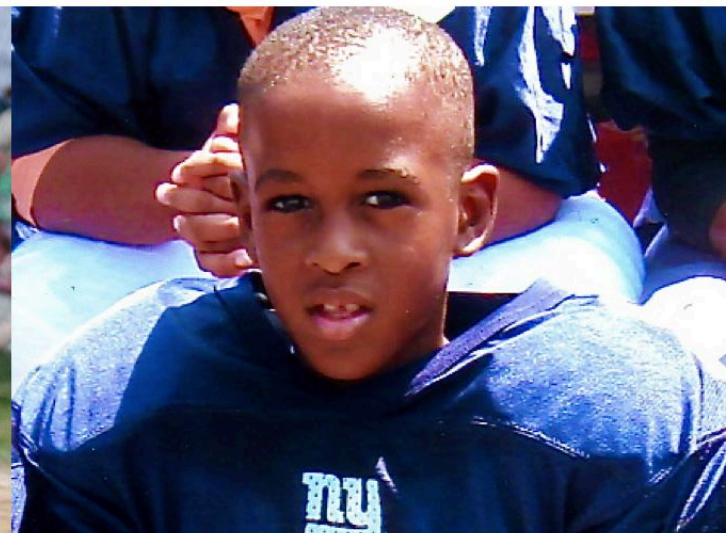


Today people go to the movies. They visit museums and the zoo and play with their friends. Kids have fun playing sports and dancing.



When Judge Gibbs lived in Little Rock, he could watch baseball. People played basketball, stickball, and tennis. They liked to ride bicycles.





Today people watch football and basketball on t.v. or at a stadium Kids like to play football, baseball, basketball, and soccer.



During Judge Gibbs's lifetime, many people did not have electricity. To see at night they used candles. Electricity makes our lives easier. Other inventions, like computers and cars, help us.





One hundred years from now, how will life be different? What do you think?









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